

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Isreal Flores, DOB 01/14/74, of St. Paul, Minnesota, pleaded guilty yesterday in U.S. District Court in Madison to conspiring to distribute at least 500 grams of methamphetamine in the Western District of Wisconsin between 2002 and 2005. Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb scheduled sentencing for June 6, 2006, at 1 p.m. Flores faces at least 10 years in prison with the possibility of life in prison, a \$4,000,000 fine, and at least a five-year term of supervised release.

At the plea hearing, Flores admitted that beginning in October 2004, he made numerous trips from St. Paul to Superior and Duluth, during which he and his co-conspirator, Jesse M. Rodrigues, would transport methamphetamine for distribution to others, including Paul A. Horvatic, who has already pleaded guilty in this case. Horvatic is to be sentenced on May 4, 2006. Rodrigues is currently scheduled for trial on May 8, 2006.

The charges against Flores were the result of an investigation conducted by the Douglas County Sheriff's Department and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation - Narcotics Bureau. Prosecution of the case has been

handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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